carned a provisional net surplus of around Rs. 73.00 Crores.

(c) The Port traffic is projected to be around 45 Million Tonnes by the turn of the Century. The Port has planned many schemes during the IXth Plan including one LPG Jetty, one Multi-purpose Berth in Outer Harbour and four Multi-purpose berths in the Inner Harbour for augmenting the existing Port Capacity.

Operations of NHAI

708. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has a separate division for road safety:

(b) if so, details of the operation of this division;

(c) whether it is a fact that response is very slow to suggestions made to improve road safety; and

(d) if so, reasons for neglect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance from World Bank for Improvement of National Highways

709. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of road (National Highways) to be improved through sanction of loan by the World Bank during 1998-99; and

(b) the details of roads to be improved under the A.P. State Highways Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is no proposal for sanction of loan by the World Bank during 1998-99 for improvement of National Highways.

(b) 14 State Highways and Major District Roads, totalling a length of about 1412 Kms. are proposed to be improved under World Bank loan assistance for Andhra Pradesh State Highways Project.

दिल्ली-नीतिपास मार्ग का राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के रूप में घोषित किया जाना

710. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्र सरकार ने दिल्ली-नीतिपास मार्ग को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के रूप में घोषित करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस तथ्य की जानकारी है कि जोशीमठ से आगे दो घाटियां यथा 1. नीति और 2. माणा है और क्या सरकार ने जोशीमठ-बद्रीनाथ धाम माणा मोटर मार्ग को भी राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग में शामिल करने पर विचार किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस प्रस्ताव को कब तक लागू किया जाना है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) से (ग) उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार के प्रस्ताव के अनुसार गाजियाबाद-माणा सड़क, वाया मेरठ, हरिद्वार, जोशीमठ, बद्रीनाथ को 24 दिसम्बर, 1997 से राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-58 घोषित किया जा चुका है। गाजियाबाद से जोशीमठ तक का भाग माणा और नीति दोनों के लिए एक ही है। फिलहाल, जोशीमठ-नीति पास मार्ग को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग घोषित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Private Investment in Port Sector

711. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested in Port Sector by the private entrepreneurs (both Indian as well as foreign) for creation of additional infrastructure since liberalisation;

(b) what are the specific areas together with the specific amount invested therein;

(c) the additional infrastructure created/built up so far; and

(d) whether liberalisation has resulted in unemployment of workers who had been working there for long time, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The private sector has been permitted to invest in the areas of leasing, construction and operation of container terminals, berths, warehousing, container freight stations, storage facilities, tank farms, equipments, dry docking and ship repairs and captive power plants. Some of the projects so far awarded to private entrepreneurs are at preliminary stages of implementation and it is early to indicate the amount of investment specifically. However, the indicative cost of projects approved so far is of the order of Rs. 2000 crores.

(d) No, sir.

Procurement of Vessels

712. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for acquiring vessles pending with Government;

(b) the steps taken to clear those proposals; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The following 8 proposals are pending for approval:

(i) Acquisition of 2 product tankers of 45,000 Dead Weight Tonne (DWT) each by Shipping Corporation of India.

(ii) Acquisition of 4 Aframax tankers of 1,10,000 DWT each by Shipping Corporation of India.

(iii) Acquisition of two LPG/Ammonia Carriers of 50,000 Cubic meter each by Shipping Corporation of India.

(iv) Acquisition of a 400 passenger-cum-cargo vessel by Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

(v) Acquisition of a 700 passenger-cum-cargo vessel by Lakshadweep Administration.

(vi) Acquisition of a second hand tug by M/s. Cargil (I) Private Limited, New Delhi.

(vii) Acquisition of a second hand tug by M/s. ABC & Sons Limited, Mumbai.

(viii) Acquisition of a second hand tug by M/s. ETA Port Operations & Rapid Transport System, Chennai.

The above proposals are awaiting clearance/approval of the appropriate authorities and who are being pursued to expedite their clearance/approval.

Revised National Roads Safety Policy

713. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted revised National Roads Safety Policy as proposed by the National Roads Safety Council for reducing the accident rate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; whether the Council has also recommended amending the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 for enhancing road safety;

(c) the time by which the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the Central Government have requested the State Governments to play an important role in the field of road safety; and